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LUCIFER.

THE LIGHT-BEARER.

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LOVE'S DESIRE.

I ask not for possession of thy heart;
Thou art no chattel to be bought and sold,—
No precious plaything wrought with curious art,
For all to covet and for one to hold,
I ask not if the magnet of desire
Will draw at last thy spirit near to mine:
Not this my dream, but ever soaring higher
To merge at last my spirit's life in thine.

I ask no boon, no guerdon save the right
To give my love, my life, myself to thee.—
Bound to thy soul with chains of golden light,
Blest in my bondage, freer than the free.
I ask for freedom to obey love's call;
I ask for nothing, yet I ask for all.

—*Edmond Holmes.*

JOHN MOST AND FREIHEIT.

A Little Peep Behind the Scenes—An Ungarbled Translation—Most Describes His Experience at Blackwell's Island.

Frederick W. Mitchell, in "Truth Seeker."

The case of John Most involves such a clear question of the freedom of the press that no Freethinker can afford to overlook it. There is something interesting about the personality of this man. He and his famous weekly, Die Freiheit, are well known by name to two continents, but it is only a select few who can judge both understandingly.

Herr Most, like many of the radical Anarchists, was born a Catholic. He has served terms of imprisonment in Germany, England, and the United States, always for what are recognized to be political crimes, with one exception. This exception will not lower him in the eyes of the majority of readers of this paper, whatever they may think of any form of Anarchy. Augsburg, where Most was born, is a Bavarian city, and there Catholicism is particularly bigoted and intolerant. The youthful Most rebelled against going to confession, and the priest, a licentious and choleric fellow, attempted to give him corporal punishment. The priest got the worst thrashing he ever had in his life. Young Most was sentenced to jail, and registered a vow that he would never enter a church as long as he lived, which oath he has solemnly kept.

Most is a well-educated man. He is an omnivorous reader, and has made a special study of history. On this subject he has often lectured both in English and German. In the popular mind Herr Most is so thoroughly identified with the extreme Anarchists that the yellow press with one accord determined to exploit him after the Buffalo affair last September. It is said that all Most assignments given to reporters on the "Journal" and the "World" were marked respectively in the corner "P. F." and "C. S.," which meant that an interesting "story" or interview with Most could be prepared in the office, as it invariably was. P. F. means "pure fake" and C. S signifies "color strongly."

Die Freiheit (Liberty) contains about one-third as much matter as the "Truth Seeker." Herr Most writes a most peculiar style in German. He excels in lurid invective. His paper can be understood and appreciated only by one who adds to a knowledge of German a knowledge of New York life and both German and American slang. Nobody understands and relishes pure High German better than John Most, but it suits his fancy to get up the greater part of the Freiheit in a strange macaronic tongue that is very puzzling to a newly-arrived German, be he ever so learned.

Most's most important Agnostic publication is Die Gottespest (The Religious Plague), first issued in Leeds, England, and afterwards translated into English. It has also appeared in Italian. It is distinctly original in thought.

As is well known, three sycophantic judges, toadying to a supposed public sentiment, lately condemned Most to Blackwell's Island. The main features of this case have been fully explained in "The Truth Seeker," but it will be interesting now to hear, without fake, from Most himself on the subject. Accordingly an article by him is here translated honestly. To secure Most's conviction it was necessary to garble the translation of an article in a most clumsy manner. But the article here given is transcribed from Freiheit with an attempt to produce the flavor of the original with no alteration, no subtraction, and no addition. It illustrates typically just how dangerous and "incendiary" Freiheit really is, and, what is more important, it shows us authoritatively the status of the Most case.

It may be added incidentally that Herr Most not infrequently permits himself a freedom of expression worthy of Martial, Zola, or Boccaccio.

Herr Most speaks as follows:

MY CASE.

I had hardly dispatched my last epistle out of the depths of the "Tombs" to the living when a deputy sheriff presented himself, bringing some iron bracelets, with an invitation that I and three 'colleagues" should take a ride in the Black Maria to that island noted for its black wells. As a matter of fact my last day of grace had not yet arrived, but they proposed to practice some of their "swift justice" on me, better known as railroading.

Then and there I found that the barbering mania continues to play a leading role, so much so that one would think the whole matter of discipline depends on whether a man grows hair on his face or is shaved to a billiard-ball smoothness. Accordingly, after the description, characteristics, etc., were duly entered, there bobbed up a would-be barber to annihilate my mane with a species of razor which later on proved to be rather a saw.

Now, I do not wear this hirsute covering exactly as an adornment, but as a means of concealing a most repulsive nakedness. (Recall that yarn about the "zigzag-brained disciples of the zigzag-mouthed prophet," as a contemptible penny-a-liner

put it.) So, as I was expecting a stay of proceedings, I endeavored to be exempted from this flaying process—well-known to me by a former experience.

"Well, I guess not!" answered the hall-keeper. "All the hairy people have to be shaved clean here. If a Chinaman came here it would be simply off with his pigtail."

(In fact, a few days later this procedure did occur with a Mongolian, although they only clapped three months on him for illicit opium selling.)

I appealed to the head keeper, and he went to the warden—Fallan is the name of this worthy—but the decision came back: "No exceptions." Then they proceeded to flay me, which left me looking as if some Boxers had been getting in their work under the impression that I was a missionary.

Then I was bathed, vaccinated, weighed—even the length and width of ears being solemnly documented—photographed, etc., and finally thrust into the famous zebra uniform and into a cell that was seven feet long, six and a half feet high, and four and a half feet wide. Next morning I learned that I had been pronounced competent to work at the drive-wheel in the blacksmith shop. Furthermore, there was nothing for me but to reconcile myself to the same wretched old routine that I went through and described fourteen years ago in the "hell of Blackwell's Island," where in the main nothing is changed.

Everything is done there by command, accompanied by continual abuse and insult. A man is not permitted to do a thing or refrain from doing a thing without being expressly ordered. At command he must open the door, shut it, wash himself, empty his slop-pail, sit down, stand up, etc. Then the lock-step—heaven, will you give me a gun! During the first days you feel an unutterable, impotent rage at all these humiliating, debasing, petty vexations; nothing meaner, nothing viler is to be met with in any prison in the wide world. Later on you come to the "goldsmith's apprentice's" way of thinking—to resist would be simple suicide, for the least attempt at insubordination means loss of meals, dark cell, and so on.

In the workshop, there and there alone, you begin to realize that you are almost a human being after all, and incidentally you can study a variety of things; more particularly your companions in misfortune, the majority of whom are there for petty offenses, for otherwise they would have been sent to the state prison in Sing Sing or Auburn.

There is one fellow who must sojourn here a year for "entering a house without ringing." Another gets a year and $500 (which means for him 500 extra days) just because the wiseacre cops merely suspected that he was bent on burglary, and they found suspicious tools in his pockets, and so on.

The hardest lot is that of the "backsliders;" for the most trivial offenses they seldom get less than a year and a nasty fine to boot, which latter is nothing more than glaring class legislation, for these wretches are compelled by their poverty alone to stay longer in prison. And worse yet, these people have to languish here for nothing and less than nothing all the longer, for no other reason than that they have already been here. Take my case, for instance. Strictly speaking, you are punished for "sins" that you have already expiated. Justice, thou art a crazy beast!

Day by day my Island life was passing away, slowly very slowly, but surely; more and more I was getting reconciled to the idea of serving the whole sentence inflicted on me by three judicial cranks; but meanwhile my counsel, Hillquitt Brothers, and comrades, far and near, were hard at work raising the funds to take the necessary measures toward getting me out. And after a sixteen-day session, Supreme Court Judge McLean handed down a decision on the appeal together with a stay of execution; and, thanks to bail of $1,300 furnished by friend and comrade Albinger, the Freiheit continued to appear.

Now observe that this legal decision made out the police judges who had condemned me to be, to a certain extent, jackasses; and it proved that their sentence, based on a never before applied and absolutely meaningless section of the code, was a high-handed [illegible] abuse of authority.

DIVISION OF ACCESSIONS
JUN 21 1943
RECEIVED

If this document were final in its bearing, it would be equivalent to an acquittal. It means, however, as it says, only an approval of the appeal, which must positively be acted on at the very next session of the Supreme Court to be held in December; otherwise McLean's decree would be ineffective.

Accordingly, every document bearing on the case, with the arguments of the lawyers for appeal, must be arranged in printed form in the shortest possible time—a distinctly American way of doing things which makes it impracticable for poor devils to attempt an appeal on account of the enormous preliminary expense. Our comrades will realize that I am in pressing need of their material assistance, after as well as before my trouble.

Seven higher judges have now to review the trial and decide by a majority vote whether my sentence is to stand or not. In case of an unfavorable decision, an appeal can still be taken to the Court of Appeals at Albany—the great law-dispensing Albany. Should the judgment of the seven wise men, however, be favorable to me and to the liberty of the press, that would really mean nothing more than the granting of a new trial; but as such a decision would at the same time plainly indicate the inapplicability to me of the section referred to, there would be no legal basis for any new trial, and the whole thing would have to be dropped.

Meanwhile I wander about within the limits of my golden chain, and my fate depends on the lottery of justice—perhaps, forsooth, on good or bad digestion of one of the lottery managers. A puzzling situation!

American Press-Writers' Association.

Eleven thousand pages of printed matter in the interests of the Association's work have been printed and distributed the past month at a total cost of $24.27, and we feel that this printed matter will unify and greatly extend the usefulness of the Press-Writers. Anarchism has been for several weeks the leading topic, but the past has seen the anti-vaccinators forging to the front in various places. J. T. Small has been in evidence several times in the "Boston Traveler," W. C. Knowles in the local papers of Gardner, Mass. Dr. R. S. Clymer in Rockland, Mass., "Free Press," Philadelphia "Times," Camden, N. J. "Post-Telegram" and several local papers in Pennsylvania.

F. Wm. E. Cullingford and others have appeared in the Camden papers and as yet no doctor has risen to defend the practice. Francis B. Livesey has been the leader on Anarchism and kindred lines. The "Sun-Democrat," Tacoma, Wash., gave him a column on Good and Bad Anarchists, an expose of the secret order organized to prosecute the Home people which the editor says "has suspended."

J. M. Gilbert and Dr. J. C. Barnes both appear in the "Farmer's Review" of Bonham, Texas, in defense of the Anarchist and the Infidel. Livesey also gets a good one in the "Iowa State Register" of DesMoines on Anarchism; two Maryland papers print him on Roosevelt and Anarchists, and the "Texas World" gives him a column in which to discuss the relations of schools, Anarchy and Socialism. Cassius V. Cook got a short letter on conventionalities in the "Chicago Chronicle" and the writer has a write up of "Teddy's" rebuke to the "jingoes" in the "Inter-Ocean."

NEW MEMBERS.

174 c. Best, Miss Grace Phelps, Lilly Dale, N. Y.
175 b. Chapman, H. L., Marcellus, Mich.
176 f. Foote, Dr. E. B., 120 Lexington Ave. New York, N. Y., donation $10.
177 b. Fox, Flora W., 15 E. 6th St. Rochester, Minn.
178 f. Hirschberg, Harry, Newburgh, N. Y., donation $3.
179 b. Pleydell, A. C., 116 Ridley Ave., Sharon Hill, Pa.
180 b. Collins, Walter, 639 E. 21st. St., Los Angeles, Cal.

CORRECTIONS.

22 b. Byler, J. M., 2314 Dewey Ave., Indianpolis, Ind.
A. C. ARMSTRONG, 17 Leroy St., Dorchester Mass.

For an impenetrable shield, stand inside your self.—*Thoreau.*

Bureaucracy in America.

Few of our readers are probably aware of the fact that the post-office bureau of the federal government is constantly doing things which if done by a private individual would subject him to severe punishment. While the daily press and leading magazines of the country are demanding the exclusion of foreign "Anarchists" because of the alleged danger to "free government," would it not be well to look a little into the acts of our own public officials and see whether they are not doing what in the nature of things will speedily subvert our boasted "free institutions?"

In the "Arena" for December, under the head "Bureaucracy in America," the editor, B. O. Flower, comments thus on the doings of one arm of the Federal executive:

"There are few forms of government more dangerous, and which in time become more essentially despotic, than that which is known as a *bureaucracy*. The despotism of Russia is far more bureaucratic than autocratic. The Czar is rather the figure-head, while the bureaus are in fact the iron hand which is staying progress and moral and intellectual development while crushing rightful liberty.

"During the last few decades there have been many alarming illustrations of bureaucratic tendencies in our own government—many acts that cannot be characterized other than as usurpations of power wholly unwarranted by law and in opposition to the genius of our government. Perhaps nowhere has this evil been more marked than in the postal department. For many years the post-office departments have striven to secure additional legislation that would enable the postal authorities to exercise more autocratic power, especially in relation to sample copies and the exclusion of periodicals which are mailable under present laws, but which are in themselves complete works, such for example as 'Les Miserables' and other standard productions which have under present laws been sent to hundreds of thousands of people who otherwise could not have enjoyed the splendid educational influence they have exerted. The plea has been that the sending of sample copies and premiums was a burden to the department and prevented it from making the financial showing that was desired. Whenever this question, however, has come up in Congress, it has been shown that the deficiency in the postal department was largely if not wholly due to the exorbitant and extortionate charges which the great railways levy upon the government and which seem to give the department little concern. Pertinent and unpleasant questions have been asked the department by our legislators, who are curious to know how the express companies are able to get better rates than the government of the United States. On the other hand, it was shown that one of the great functions of the post-office was to further the distribution of literature and thereby increase the education of the people."

* * *

Mr. Flower adds that "having failed repeatedly to secure the legislation desired, the [post-office] department has now arrogated to itself the right to gain its ends by arbitrary rulings calculated to cover the points which Congress has repeatedly refused to grant through legislation." The editor then quotes from correspondence between Gen. C. H. Howard, a Chicago publisher, and Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden, showing that the rulings alluded to in regard to "sample copies," "subscriptions in bulk," etc., are avowedly arbitrary, autocratic and unauthorized by law.

The object of this article is not to argue for or against the wisdom or justice of these postal regulations, but rather to show how rapidly our miscalled government of the people is drifting into the imperialistic methods of the old-world despotisms.

As shown by Gen. C. H. Howard, in an article entitled "Publishers and the Postal Department" in the current number of the "Arena," a "National Publishers' Bureau" has been formed the object of which it is to acquaint the general public with the facts concerning these arbitrary and imperialistic methods of managing the very erroneously called people's mail.

M. H.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Are you wondering what holiday present you shall select for your friend? What more appropriate than a well-chosen book, which may be treasured by its recipient not only for the sake of the giver, but for the gift's intrinsic worth? Here are a few to which we would call your special attention:

DAWN-THOUGHT, by J. Wm. Lloyd, is one of the most appropriate gift-books that could be chosen. Printed in Old-Style Antique type, red-letter side-titles and chapter-initials, with portrait of author. In three editions, *de luxe*, plain and paper bound. Prices, $1.25, $1, and 50 cents.

SONGS OF THE UNBLIND CUPID is a dainty little gift booklet, also by J. Wm. Lloyd. For description see our book-list.

MARRIAGE IN FREE SOCIETY, by Edward Carpenter, is a well-printed, daintily-bound booklet, written in the author's well-known charming style. Price 25 cents.

For the young nothing could be better than SCIENCE IN STORY; or Sammy Tubbs, the Boy Doctor, and Sponsie, the Troublesome Monkey. The interest is held through every one of the 240 pages, and "grown-up" children too, will laugh over the funny adventures of Sponsie, and with Sammy learn of the wonders of physiological science. Profusely illustrated. Five volumes in one, cloth $2; Five volumes separate, flexible cloth, 50 cents a volume.

Another splendid story for the young is KORADINE, by Alice B. Stockham and Lida Hood Talbot. Illustrated. 125 pages. Extra Levant cloth. Price $1.

NORA, A DOLL'S HOUSE, and GHOSTS, two of Ibsen's best-known plays, are bound together in a well-printed handsomely-bound volume, suitable for a gift-book. Price, 75 cents.

A charming present to your friend to whom the occult is interesting would be BALZAC'S SERAPHITA: THE MYSTERY OF SEX; by Mary Hanford Ford. Well printed in large, clear type, on heavy paper and bound in Levant cloth. Price, $1.

MEN, WOMEN, AND CHANCE, by William Platt, is another pretty gift-book. Is handsomely printed and bound, and contains two stories: The Ascent to the Heights, and Blind Men and Seeing. Price, 75 cents.

THE BALLAD OF READING GAOL, by C. 3. 3. (Oscar Wilde) is an artistically printed and bound work in two editions—paper, 10 cents; cloth, $1.

The presentation edition of Paine's AGE OF REASON would be a beautiful present for any friend who is interested in Freethought. See description in our book list.

Others in our list which would make acceptable presents are: A CHAMBERMAID'S DIARY; HILDA'S HOME; MARTYRDOM OF MAN; RIGHTS OF WOMEN; THE WOMAN WHO DID; WOMAN, CHURCH, AND STATE, and WOMAN, IN THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE. For prices and descriptions of these see last page of this issue.

We have two copies of A PERSIAN PEARL and Other Essays, by Clarence S. Darrow. This is the edition published at the Roycroft Shop, and each book is numbered. The essays are A Persian Pearl; The Skeleton in the Closet; Walt Whitman; Realism in Literature and Art; and Robert Burns. The book is very handsomely printed and bound, and is now "out of print." Who wants these? Price, $2 each.

Address M. Harman, 500 Fulton street, Chicago, Ill.

A Kansas widower was recently caught hugging and kissing his housekeeper at a church social and was complained of and put on trial for disturbing the peace and for "open gross lewdness and lascivious behavior in a public place," but the jury acquitted him, the judge complimented him and the audience cheered him to the echo. Thus at a single bound he leaped into fame and honor. It may well be said "there are no flies on Kansas."

S. R. S.

Lucifer, the Lightbearer

M. HARMAN, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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The President's Message.

The first message of our present chief ruler to the legislative body known as the Congress of the United States, is a long one; one of the longest on record.

This delivering a message at the opening of the annual sessions of the national legislature seems to be a survival or imitation of the custom long observed by the English monarchs at the opening of the national legislature called the British Parliament, and in so doing the American chief magistrate exercises one of the traditional prerogatives of monarchy.

The meaning of this custom, or the inference to be drawn from its observance, would seem to be that the people of the United States do not know what is best for them, neither do their so-called representatives in Congress know what is best for the general welfare, and therefore the man who is supposed to be elected to see that the laws are properly executed takes it upon himself to instruct the people—that is, their representatives, as to their powers and duties.

And thus it cometh to pass that a comparatively young man, one who until quite recently was known chiefly for his feats in hunting wild animals and as a "rough rider" or "cowboy" on the western plains, and also as the colonel of a "rough rider" regiment in the brief and inglorious war against a weak, a broken down and superannuated monarchy—this man, comparatively young and by no means noted for wisdom or prudence, assumes the role of paternal guardian of the welfare of eighty millions of people, many of whom in years, experience and wisdom are incomparably his superior—and in this capacity of paternal guardian assumes the right of authoritative instructor, not to say DICTATOR.

* * *

I have read but little of this long perfunctory document, said to contain about twenty thousand words. Printed in small type it is tiresome to the eyes; but this is one of the least of my objections to spending valuable time in giving it a thorough perusal. A far greater objection is the wear and waste of reserve nervous energy consequent upon reading a long document that in its outset shows its author to be either very ignorant of current literature bearing upon political affairs, else a wilful falsifier and maligner of his fellow citizens, many of whom are, to say the least, as honest and as capable of forming a correct judgment on public matters as himself, to say nothing of benevolence or philanthropy.

* * *

Before writing more about the message of "His Accidency,"—Andrew Johnson was so-called when he succeeded Abraham Lincoln in the office of president of the United States, I wish to say that against Theodore Roosevelt as a man I have nothing to say, and that in speaking of his public acts or utterances I shall treat him not as my lord or master in any sense, but rather as the SERVANT of all the people, employed by them much as a constable or policeman is employed, to help defend the rights of the private citizens, that is, to help to keep the peace between man and man, holding that it is no part of his business to make laws for the government of others, nor to dictate to the lawmakers what laws should be enacted.

To put it differently I claim my right as an American citizen to criticize freely, without fear or favor, the acts and utterances of all who for the time being occupy positions of political, military or civil power, trust or responsibility.

* * *

To do less than this would be to acknowledge myself incompetent to perform the full duty of a citizen,—to be recreant to the duties rightfully imposed on him who enjoys the privileges of citizenship.

To do less than this would be to invite and tempt our public servants to usurp powers and functions that do not properly belong to them, with the result that the government of the people, by the people and for the people would soon become (if it has not already so become) a government of public servants, and by and for our public servants.

It is one of the chief characteristics of the demagogue that he appeals to the passions and prejudices of his hearers to win their favor. Whether Theodore Roosevelt in his carefully prepared opening speech to the American congress exhibits the arts of the demagogue I leave to the readers of Lucifer to say. Out of more than a whole long column of closely printed talk about Anarchy and Anarchists, as given in the daily papers, I select a few characteristic paragraphs, supposing that not all our readers will have the opportunity of reading the message entire for themselves:

"The Anarchist is a criminal whose perverted instincts lead him to prefer confusion and chaos to the most beneficent form of social order. His protest of concern for workingmen is outrageous in its impudent falsity; for if the political institutions of this country do not afford opportunity to every honest and intelligent son of toil, then the door of hope is forever closed against him. The Anarchist is everywhere not merely the enemy of system and of progress, but the deadly foe of liberty. If ever Anarchy is triumphant, its triumph will last for but one red moment, to be succeeded for ages by the gloomy night of despotism."

"For the Anarchist himself, whether he preaches or practices his doctrines, we need not have one particle more concern than for any ordinary murderer. He is not the victim of social or political injustice. There are no wrongs to remedy in his case. The cause of his criminality is to be foud in his own evil passions and in the evil conduct of those who urge him on, not in any failure by others or by the state to do justice to him or his. He is a malefactor and nothing else. He is in no sense, in no shape or way, a 'product of social conditions,' save as a highwayman is 'produced' by the fact that an unarmed man happens to have a purse. It is a travesty upon the great and holy names of liberty and freedom to permit them to be invoked in such a cause. No man or body of men preaching Anarchistic doctrines should be allowed at large any more than if preaching the murder of some specified private individual. Anarchistic speeches, writings, and meetings are essentially seditious and treasonable."

"Anarchy is a crime against the whole human race, and all mankind should band against the Anarchist. His crime should be made an offense against the law of nations, like piracy and that form of man stealing known as the slave trade; for it is of blacker infamy than either. It should be so declared by treaties

among all civilized powers. Such treaties would give to the Federal Government the power of dealing with the crime."

* * *

Just here I would remind our readers that I distinctly decline to stand sponsor for the opinions or the utterances of any man, or men. I represent no one but myself, and myself only for the present hour. I am liable to change opinion at any moment. What I say in this article is not in defense of Anarchists as such but simply in defense of personal right and personal liberty. If Roosevelt had called all Christians criminals and demanded that they be treated as murderers because one of their number assassinated James Garfield I should raise my voice against such injustice.

And so also when all Anarchists are denounced as criminals because a man calling himself an Anarchist killed William McKinley I raise my voice against such injustice.

With the poet Lowell I would say, "They are slaves who dare not speak for the fallen and the weak"—no matter by what name they may be called. We all remember the story of the Quaker who had a dog he wanted killed. Being very tender-hearted he said to the dog, "I cannot kill thee, but I will give thee a bad name." So he called to the passers by, "Bad dog, bad dog!" The people understood him to say MAD dog, and so they quickly killed him without stopping to inquire what evidence there was against the poor beast.

So it is with Roosevelt and Archists generally. They know that philosophic Anarchists—the only kind who can rightfully claim the name—are very well-behaved people, but their teachings are considered dangerous to the interests of those who systematically rob the masses of people, and so to get rid of the dangerous teachers these Archists proclaim it from pulpit, press and platform and from the Presidential chair, that Anarchy means assassination, that it means "confusion and chaos," that "no man or body of men preaching Anarchistic doctrines should be allowed at large, any more than if preaching the murder of some specified private individual."

* * *

According to Roosevelt Thomas Jefferson should "not be allowed at large," if alive now and talking as he did in the Declaration of Independence and in his other published works. Quoting from Trumbull's pamphlet entitled "Thomas Jefferson," here are a few of his utterances:

"I am convinced that those societies which live without government enjoy in their mass an infinitely greater degree of happiness than those who live under European governments. Among the former, public opinion is in the place of law, restraining morals as powerfully as laws ever did anywhere."

Then speaking of the three forms under which "societies exist," he mentioned as first—"Without government, as among the Indians," adding, "it is a problem not clear in my mind that the first condition is not the best."

Who is the better authority on matters of political or civil government, Thomas Jefferson or Theodore Roosevelt?

M. HARMAN.

Hygiene and Therapeutics.

Once more the solar year is nearing its close—that is, for the inhabitants of the northern hemisphere of the earth's surface, bringing the season of sudden atmospheric changes, especially sudden changes of temperature from pleasantly warm to disagreeably cold. These changes are very apt to have a disastrous effect upon health, especially of people whose bodily condition has been impaired or weakened by dietetic errors, by breathing foul air, by neglect of bathing, lack of proper physical exercise or by some one or more of the many bad habits of most dwellers in our crowded cities, and also of those who live in rural districts, as well.

Believing that to learn from experience and observation is the art of living I propose in this article to give some of the results of my own experience and observation as to the best methods of avoiding the "colds," "coughs," pneumonias, etc., so frequently prevalent in high northern latitudes, and also in the so-called temperate zone, during the winter and early spring months.

During the first half of my life I was much afflicted with the disorders just mentioned. Nearly every winter, and often till late in summer my lungs were in a state of acute or chronic inflammation, more or less pronounced.

Now, and for many years past I very rarely have any trouble with my lungs, and when a cold is taken it lasts but a short time. Briefly told my methods of prevention and cure of colds, pneumonia, and other bronchial, nasal and pulmonary troubles are these:

First, the habit of deep and full breathing, being careful to breathe pure and cool or cold air. When I first began these conscious efforts at full inflation of the lungs the process was difficult and painful, but by persistence—many times each day inhaling all the air possible, then slowly expelling it, with head erect and arms extended, the exercise soon became easy and pleasant. At night I am specially careful to have my sleeping room well supplied with pure air, and frequently during the night the full breathing exercises are repeated.

Second, a daily bath in tepid, cool or cold water, followed by brisk towel or hand rubbing, with an occasional warm or hot bath—the common tub-bath or "cabinet" vapor bath, followed by cool or cold water over the whole body.

Third, daily exercise of the muscles in the open air, or in a well ventilated room. I regard walking as probably the best of all the physical exercises for health, being careful to carry the head erect and the lungs well inflated. Next, perhaps, comes exercise with dumb bells, Indian clubs, parallel bars, etc., also rowing or horse-back riding if convenient and safe.

To cure colds, coughs, obstructions of the nasal passages, bronchial troubles and pneumonia, the treatment is much the same as for prevention. With the very first symptoms of "taking cold," as the phrase is, special treatment should begin. Dr. Hall's prescription for a cold is excellent, so far as it goes. He says:

"Stop work at once. Go to your room, a warm but well ventilated room: put your feet in hot water and keep them there at least one hour, and be sure to have the water hotter when you take them out than when you put them in Wipe them dry; put on clean warm stockings. Stay in your room and eat nothing whatever for twenty-four hours."

My own experience would add to the above as follows: With the feet in hot water take a "cabinet" or vapor bath, for the entire body. If the nasal passages are closed, sniff hot water—as hot as can be borne, holding the water in the nose for some minutes. At first the effort will probably fail, but a little perseverance will open the passages. Repeat the process until the catarrhal symptoms disappear. If the throat is sore, continued gargling with hot water will give relief.

If no cabinet is handy, and no better way of providing steam, let the patient sit, naked or nearly so, on a cane-bottomed chair covered with towels; put an ordinary iron pot half-filled with hot water under the chair. Into the pot, drop hot stones or brick-bats—being careful not to scald

the patient by having the stones too hot, and confining the steam by blankets tucked under the patient's chin. If the patient is weak or feels faint the head should be kept cool with cold water appliances.

This is a cheaply improvised Turkish bath, but with a little tact may be made quite as satisfactory in results as the more expensive kind. The bath should be continued until thorough sweating is produced, or if the patient is too weak to sit up the sweating can be accomplished by the application of hot bricks, or better still, by means of ears of corn (maize) taken from boiling water and placed around the body, the limbs and feet of the patient in bed, and persisted in until the desired result is obtained.

In this primitive and clumsy way I have very successfully treated pneumonia in country places where no better appliances were obtainable.

* * *

To show that fevers may be successfully treated by the application of water alone, and without the complicated apparatus used by many water-cure doctors, I herewith give the experience of an old farmer living in southern Missouri, and printed more than half a century ago in the "Water-Cure Journal," published by Fowlers and Wells, New York:

"East Prairie, Mississippi Co., Mo., Nov. 30, 1850.

"MESSRS. FOWLERS AND WELLS:

"I am a farmer, in my seventy-fifth year. I have taken your Journal since January last, but in none of your Journals do I see where fevers have been treated with the success that I have treated them with for more than thirty years, and I have never failed in a single case to make a perfect cure in a few minutes. I have no interest in deceiving you or any other person; and as for having my name published in your Journal as a great Water-Cure doctor, I wish you not to publish this, but give it to some person of your acquaintance in whom you have confidence, who will give it a fair trial, or to several, and if it succeeds, as I know it will, publish the fact in any person's name you please except mine.

"I have treated all fevers, fever and ague, etc., alike. My plan is simply to bathe at the time the fever is at the highest; if the fever has passed its highest point, and is going off, I let the patient alone until it returns. I know nothing of wet sheets, bandages, etc.; but when the fever returns, or gets as high as I think it will go, I put the patient in a hogshead that I keep for bathing. I have him go entirely under water, head and all, for three or four times, keeping his head under each time as long as he can conveniently hold his breath; then let him dabble in it up to the chin until the heat is reduced to the natural temperature, and the patient feels comfortable; then let him come out and wipe dry with towels, put his clothes on, walk about, lie down, or do as his inclination leads; eat what he will, drink what he pleases; as for rubbing, I do nothing of the kind. I pay no attention to the temperature of the water, the object being to bring the patient to the natural heat, and this can be done in fifteen or twenty minutes.

"When I have no convenience for bathing, and, in fact, sometimes, as a matter of preference, I pour water on the patient's head, instead of bathing; and surprising as it may seem, this always has the same effect that bathing has, and I do not know that it takes longer to cool the body in this way than it does by bathing. I have the patient lie with the head over the edge or side of the bed, so that the water will not wet the bedding. I then get a bucket of the coldest water, place it under the head, and pour the water over the back of the head from one temple to the other, the patient lying with the face downward. I pour it on moderately, and at the height of the fever; I think it will have little effect if done at any other time. Pouring water on the head in this way will cool the whole body nearly or quite as soon as going all under water, as before directed. If the water is not poured on long enough at first, the fever will return in a few minutes, but repeat the pouring then as at first. I have known the fever return twice before it was finally driven away.

"The next day after the treatment the patient is capable of attending to his business as usual, and I do not recollect a case in which the patient had another attack the same season. . . . . I am sure if my mode is not employed as directed, at the height of the fever, it will fail. As stated in the beginning, I am no doctor, neither did I make this discovery myself. I lived forty-two years on the Sciota bottom-lands, in Sciota county, Ohio, the most noted place for bilious complaints perhaps in the world. A physician who had attended my family, being about to move away, I asked him whom I should apply to after he was gone, in case of sickness. He then told me how to apply water in all cases of fever. I have now tried it more than thirty years, and have never failed.

"The effect the cold bath had on me last spring, in the worst dysentery I ever experienced, no person would believe. I could name a great many cases of different kinds of bowel complaints, which have been successfully treated with Water-Cure. . . . . but I have found that almost ninety-nine in a hundred have been opposed to the application of cold water in any case whatever. The few who have tried the cure as directed, have never failed to get well speedily; yet, even they would almost always, on the second attack, apply to a drug-doctor. In the cases of small children, I have induced their mothers to hold them in a bucket or tub of water, and wet their heads continually for five minutes. I have never known this fail to cure the chills and fever; let it be done also when the fever is at the highest.

ABRAHAM MILLAR."

* * *

My experience corroborates that of Mr. Millar, and when he speaks of the popular prejudice against water-cure treatment of fevers and of other diseases, so-called; also when he says that after being cured by this simple, rational and inexpensive method his patients "would almost always, on the next attack, apply to a drug-doctor," showing that the drug superstition, in physical therapeutics, is nearly if not quite as hard to overcome as is the vicarious atonement superstition in psychic therapeutics, or soul-healing.

I have many and very faithful and helpful friends among the medical fraternity some of whom still give drugs to their patients; mainly, as I think, because these patients expect and demand drug-medication,—knowing from long experience that, as the old Missouri farmer says, to refuse to prescribe drugs is simply to send the sick man to a doctor who will; thus losing the case, the fee, and also the opportunity to do something towards eradicating the old barbaric medical superstition.

M. HARMAN.

Albert Chavannes has just issued the second edition of his "Studies in Sociology." In four parts: I., The Law of Happiness; II., The Law of Individual Control; III., The Law of Exchange; IV., The Law of Environment. We shall add this work to our book list and send it on receipt of 25 cents.

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